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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

Spain/Poland

25X1SUBJECT

Red Spanish Legation

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1. "When the Communist regime was established in Poland, a Red Spanish Legation started operating in Warsaw. Despite the fact that this Legation is not on the official diplomatic list, its head, Minister Manuel Sanchez Arcas was very active in Warsaw, politically, as well as socially. The Legation received considerable financial support from Moscow and was regarded as a centre from which activities of Red Spanish émigrés in various countries were directed. Leading Polish Communists and even Cabinet members willingly accepted invitations of Mr. Arcas, and the Legation's activities were considerable. The envoy himself frequently visited the political missions of Prague, Bucharest, and Berlin. It is also believed that this Legation even directed the activities of certain Spanish émigrés living in Yugoslavia. In the fall of 1953 a sudden change took place in the position of the Legation. It became evident that the subsidies granted to it had been reduced considerably since Arcas stopped his social activities and the Legation ceased to be a place where many expensive parties were being given. The Polish Communists, too, began to avoid the Spanish émigrés and it became obvious that Mr. Arcas was no longer necessary to his Soviet employers. The situation is now so critical that in the spring of 1954 he was obliged to reduce his personnel and dismiss almost his entire staff."

- End -

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